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Money, projects delay radon correction

BY SHANNON BACK

Sarah Martin moved to Central Hall two years ago because she liked the location.

She is moving out next semester because she said she is afraid to breathe in her dorm room.

"It was kind of scary the first time I came home after hearing about the radon," the Bowling Green sophomore said. "You think you're living in a safe environment — then one day you realize you're not."

Central Hall is one of the nine buildings on campus with high levels of radon. According to the national Environmental Protection Agency, the radioactive gas is responsible for 15,000 lung cancer deaths per year.

The university tested campus

buildings last June. Facilities Management Director Mark Struss said the university wanted to see if there was a problem.

According to test results, there is.

Of the buildings tested, 10 contained levels above the EPA's recommended action level of 4pCi/L.

Some of the high level buildings included the Craig Alumni Center, Bemis Lawrence, Central Hall, Facilities Management offices in the parking structure, the Supply Services Building, the Information Center, Van Meter Hall and New Sorority Hall.

The Information Center tested at 26.1, while Central had the second-highest level of 14.6, followed by the alumni center with

a 12.7 and the Supply Services Building with a 10.0.

Charlotte Baker, environmental health and safety director,

"We have all kinds of things to deal with that are equally as important."

— Mark Struss
Facilities Management director

said the Information Center is the only building that was corrected.

Lexington sophomore Janie Hatfield said she wonders why Central hasn't been fixed.

"It bothers me that people are denying that there is a problem," she said. "I want them to install the mitigation system in all the buildings with high levels. They fixed one building — then just stopped."

Struss said they stopped because of financial reasons and other projects.

"The mitigation system we installed (in the Information Center) was \$3,000 just in labor, and we did it ourselves," he said. "We even had the materials donated by the Barren River District Health Department."

"We have all kinds of things to deal with that are equally as important. The fire coverings, etc. There is a lot going on — it's just a matter of getting it all done."

Radon, which primarily affects areas close to caves, is present in Warren County more than any other county in Kentucky. According to an EPA study, 57 percent of Bowling Green homes had levels over the action level.

The EPA compared the action level to 200 chest X-rays a year for lifetime residences.

Wendy Lindaver, national radon program analyst, said dorms should be considered homes.

"It is a radioactive gas you are exposed to," she said. "So of course it's dangerous. But there is no set formula to determine how much you are exposed to in a given length of time."

SEE RADON, PAGE 3

Seven SAE's accused of starting fight with students

BY REBECCA LENZ

Monirul Quasem, a junior from Bangladesh, said he was acting as a designated driver Saturday night when he was allegedly jumped by seven Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity members and then arrested for public intoxication.

Quasem said he and his girlfriend Pam Carter, a senior from Wilmington, N.C., got into his car, after leaving Baker Street Cafe, and the men began beating his car.

"My side mirror is broken," he said. "My hood is dented and my window still has hand-prints on it from where they were trying to hit me."

Quasem said the men began to harass Carter and that's when he got out of the car and they allegedly jumped him. Carter got involved because she was trying to get the men off of Quasem. In the process, she was hit, she said.

◆ Some Western fraternity houses receive a large number of noise complaint calls.

See story, Page 3

"She has bruises all over her, and she's a very upset," Quasem said. "They shouldn't hit a girl, that's not right."

Quasem said a racial slur started the fight. "It seems like all they see is the color," he said. Carter said people should respect each other and "be smarter than that."

Pat Thomas, crime analysis officer for the Bowling Green Police Department, said reports show three 911 calls.

The first call was at 1:53 a.m. from 1303 College St. reporting a fight. At that time, there were three or four people in a fist fight and about 15 people watching, Thomas said.

The second call was at 2:18 a.m. from 1410 College St., he said. This call was also to report a fight that was said to be a continuation of the one from Baker Street Cafe.

Thomas said the third call came from Baker Street Cafe at 2:37 a.m. reporting that an Indian male had been jumped outside. An officer's report stated the SAE's started the fight and had left by the time the police arrived.

SEE SAE'S, PAGE 3



Carrie Pratt/Herald

Pipe dreams: Taking advantage of the warmer weather, Louisville sophomore Jeff Rogers studies on a stone wall near Cherry Hall for a class on Revelation.

Patton to introduce education changes

BY JOHN STAMPER

Gov. Paul Patton has been listening and learning over the past few months, becoming a repository of information about higher education in Kentucky.

On May 5 he wants to take Kentucky's higher education system to school and reform it.

The governor has not said what changes in higher education he would like to see, but State Budget Director Jim Ramsey, who has worked closely with Patton on higher education reform, said more details would be forthcoming at the March 10 meeting of the Post Sec-

ondary Education Task Force.

Ramsey said Patton will present a book representing the information he has gathered over the past six to eight months.

"It will really be a description of the current system and its good points and the problem points," he said, noting the book would allow members of the task force to decide for themselves what problems higher education has.

In the meantime, suggestions of possible changes in post-secondary education have been spreading across the state.

One option presented to the governor by Western Regent Burns Mercer involves consolidating individual regent

boards at the state's universities into three regional boards: one for the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville, one for Kentucky's six regional universities, which would include Western, and one for the state community college system and post-secondary technical schools.

Gary Cox, executive director for the Council on Higher Education, said the three regional boards would help focus a statewide agenda for higher education.

He offered an example: "If Western

SEE PATTON, PAGE 6

Diversions

Black History

Track



Stalking is a concern for students.

Page 7

Student finds hero in an ordinary man.

Page 6

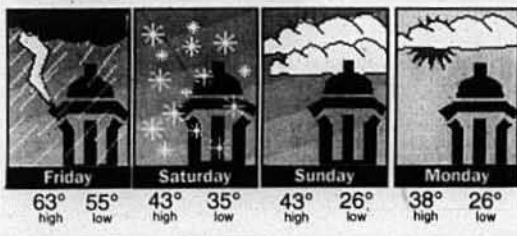
Track team competes in the Sun Belt Conference championship.

Page 9



Herald forecast

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◆ Campus line

Women's rugby practices at 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 6 p.m. Wednesdays. For more information, contact Rebecca Shepherd at 745-5216.

Campus Crusade for Christ meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in Page Hall Auditorium. For more information, contact Daphne Ragland at 745-2713.

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in Downing University Center, Room 349. For more information, contact Rick McCartney at 782-3553.

Black Student Fellowship meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Baptist Student Center. For more information, contact Swanson Hill at 843-6534.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in the Baptist Student Center. For more information, contact Eboney Neely at 783-8077.

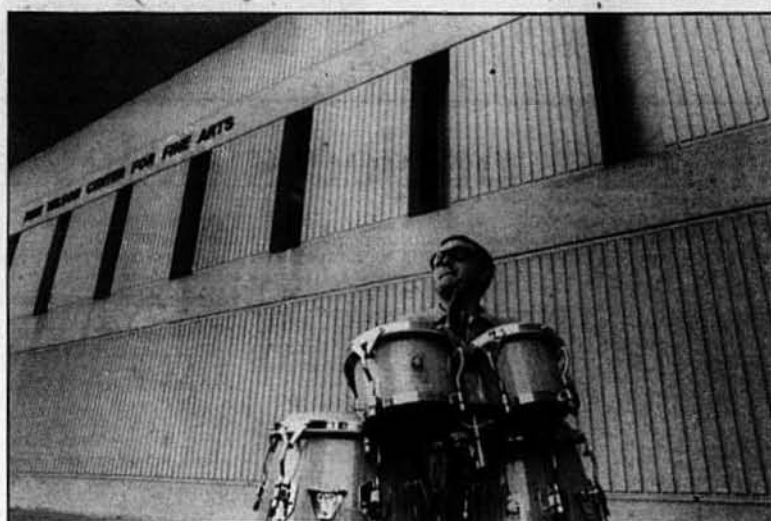
Physics and astronomy department presents "Follow the Drinking Gourd" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays in the Hardin Planetarium. For more information, contact the department at 745-4044.

Chess Club meets at 6 p.m. Mondays in DUC, fourth floor. For more information, contact Chris Dillingham at 782-6349.

The Gwyneth B. Davis Memorial Scholarship is available for female pre-law students. Applications can be picked up in Cherry Hall, Room 200. The deadline is Monday. For more information, contact Patricia Minter at 745-5098.

◆ Clearing the air

The final score of the Lady Toppers' game Sunday night was Western 73, Louisiana Tech 65.



Ken Harper/Herald

Just beat it: In front of the fine arts center Tuesday afternoon, Bowling Green senior Kevin Johnson plays the congas with Western's jazz combo. This is Johnson's first year with the group.

◆ For the record/crime reports

Reports

◆ Timothy Jones, Barnes-Campbell, reported Feb. 11 his compact disc player, valued at \$100, stolen while his car was parked in Egypt lot.

◆ Frank Lamanna, 616 Eastwood Drive, reported Feb. 11 a juvenile was filming the cheerleaders during a men's basketball game without their consent. A disorderly conduct report was filed.

◆ Marie Holthaus, Gilbert Hall, reported Feb. 12 the con-

vertible top of her car, valued at \$100, damaged while her car was in the parking structure. She filed a third degree criminal mischief report.

◆ Daniel Cox, 554 Lost Circle Drive, reported Feb. 12 being assaulted during a basketball game at the Preston Health and Activities Center. He filed a second degree assault report.

◆ Bennie Beach, Downing University Center, reported Feb. 13 his television, valued at \$250, stolen from Room 328.

◆ Dianne Shuntich, Richmond, reported Feb. 13 her fanny pack and its contents, valued at \$41, stolen from the Institute for Economic Development on Nashville Road.

◆ Lon Hudson, Keen Hall, reported Feb. 13 paint damage to the passenger side of his vehicle, valued at \$1,200, while it was parked in front of the dorm.

◆ Ingrid Villar, West Hall, reported Feb. 13 receiving a bomb threat for the hall. A terrorist threatening report was filed.

Herald
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SAE's: Fraternity's council 'investigating the situation'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Two officers then went to Baker Street Cafe to talk to Quasem, and according to reports, he was advised to stay inside.

Quasem did not comply and reports said he "smelled of alcohol, and was warned to stay inside and that he was angry and belligerent." He was then arrested for public intoxication.

Quasem said he was the designated driver for the evening and had not been drinking.

Thomas said Quasem's blood alcohol content wasn't checked because the officers felt it wasn't necessary. This matter will be argued in court, he said.

"Usually speaking ... if somebody is that drunk and smells that strongly of alcohol then a test isn't necessary," Thomas said.

Cathy Allen, a Baker Street Cafe bartender who was working Saturday night, said she is upset about the officer arresting Quasem when he was the victim.

"If something is up with defending his rights then I would like to help him," she said.

Quasem said he is upset about being arrested. He said the officers said they didn't have to give him a breathalyzer. Quasem said

"I'm 100 percent positive that I was arrested because of my race."

— **Monirule Quasem**
junior from Bangladesh

he sat in jail for 5 1/2 hours Sunday morning.

"I'm 100 percent positive that I was arrested because of my race," he said.

Neither the individual officer nor the department can comment on any charges until

the matter is tried in court, Thomas said.

"Just so it doesn't get tried in the paper," he said.

Allen said she has never had a problem with any SAE's before and was surprised to learn who was involved.

"They are really nice guys to me," she said. "Nothing like that ever happens around here."

Charles Pride, student activities and organizations coordinator, said the situation is being investigated.

"It's one of those case by case things," he said.

SAE President Jeff Yan, a senior from Evansville, Ind., said he was out of town Saturday night so he is still trying to find out exactly what happened.

"Our executive council is investigating the situation," he said. "I hope to know by the end of the week."

RADON: 'Look into it a little deeper'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Struss said he doesn't think this is the most serious problem on campus.

"I have an 18-year-old daughter who might go to school here next year," he said.

"I wouldn't want her exposed to anything that isn't safe — I'm not sure if this is safe or unsafe yet."

Susan Conrath of the City Public Health Department in Washington, D.C., said being exposed to radon in a dorm adds to a person's total lifetime exposure.

"What we do know is that a person's risk of lung cancer is determined by their total exposure," the epidemiologist said. "If you are exposed to a high dosage in your dorm, it adds to the number you were exposed to at other places."

"For a smoker, a lifetime exposure to the action level would result in one in 100 dying. For a non-smoker, one in 1,000 could die. These are very high risks."

The university will re-test in April, and will take steps accordingly, Struss said.

According to the national EPA, the best time to test is now. "Radon levels tend to be highest in the winter and you

want to test when they are the highest," Lindaver said. "If you test in spring or summer you could get a false sense of security by thinking you don't have a radon problem when in fact you probably do."

Conrath said if the university does wait until April to re-test, it should average in the previous results.

"The average would be the radon level you look at," she said. "You can't just say, 'Well, the second test is lower. I think I'll use that one.'"

Martin isn't satisfied. "I think they should find a way to fix it," she said. "They should do something about it now — look into it a little deeper."

Struss said the university can only do so much at one time.

"The resources we have, both manpower and financially, are somewhat limited," he said. "We do the best we can with what we've got."

Hatfield said negligence is harming the university's reputation.

"If the city knows about it it makes the university look like they aren't doing what they should," she said.

The April testing should make the university more aware

of the problem, Struss said.

"I feel fairly confident that this will enable us to give students some sense of safety," he said.

"I hope that levels will be lower, but if they are high again we've got a lot of work to do."

Jim Ramsey, vice president for Finance and Administration, said the university has made a commitment to address the problem.

"Of course this makes us look bad," he said. "It's something we need to become more aware of and work on."

A possibility, Ramsey said, is declaring "a state emergency." If buildings need to be corrected, the university will request state funds, he said.

However, Ramsey said the university would have to go through "lengthy government procedures."

"Declaring emergency might speed up the process a little bit," he said. "But we'll still have to wait."

Louisville sophomore Dana West said she's tired of waiting.

"It's one thing not to have enough money," the Central resident said.

"But if they want people to come here, it should be safe — they should find the money somewhere and fix it."

Police respond to calls

BY MIKKI OLMSTED

Of the 12 Western fraternity houses, the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house ranks the highest in police incident reports, according to recent Bowling Green crime reports.

The Bowling Green Police Department has responded to 294 incidents involving fraternity members or their chapter houses since August 1995. Police answered calls to seven fraternity houses that had "various" incidents, according to Crime Analysis Officer Pat Thomas. Four houses have been involved in noise disturbances due to parties.

"It's usually when people are outside hollering, being loud," said Jerry Wolf, president of the Phi Deltas and a senior from Portland, Tenn. Police have responded 50 times to complaints at their house since August 1995.

Thomas said more than half the calls concerning the Phi Deltas involved parties and loud music.

Although the complaints are typically made by their neighbors, Glendale sophomore Keith Green said he doesn't have a problem living next door to the fraternity.

Even though fraternities are connected to Western, their house events are not directly under university control.

Charlie Pride, student activities and organizations coordinator, said the university can't force the fraternities to curb their incident reports. All of

the chapter houses are privately owned, usually by "corporations of alumni" and are not owned by Western, he said.

"We strongly encourage them to have good relations with their neighbors," he said.

Farmhouse house manager Michael Gardner, a Dunmore senior, said his fraternity has had problems with their neighbors.

"We've been wrote up a few times for loud noises at parties," he said.

Police have responded to 17 calls since the fall of 1995 at their house.

"We did have a problem with the neighbor across the street with a young child," Gardner said.

Stacie Hite, a Farmhouse neighbor, said the noise never bothers her.

Louisville junior Germaine Champion, Kappa Alpha Psi vice president, said his fraternity doesn't have a problem with noise complaints from their neighbors.

"We really don't know our neighbors," he said. "We've never had no problems."

According to police records, KA Psi has had six incidents, including two loud music complaints, one fight and one other disturbance. However, they are among the lowest offenders.


Wolf said the Phi Deltas try to handle their complaints.

"Sometimes if we have a band ... we go around to the neighbors to ask them to extend the noise ordinance."

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Opinion

Don't abuse a free ride

After two weeks on the road, Provide-A-Ride has been cruising along, but we think now is a good time for someone to slam on the brakes.

On Feb. 6, almost 40 students used Provide-A-Ride; Student Government Association President Kristen Miller deemed its debut a success. Last Thursday was even better: 57 people climbed aboard. The folks at SGA are calling people who have participated in the program and are getting positive feedback about the Provide-A-Ride experience. Miller said she hasn't seen any quirks in the program.

We do. For the last two weeks, students have been calling the Provide-A-Ride line to get rides home from bars and parties. But they've also been calling to get rides to bars and parties. Looking at the development of Provide-A-Ride, one thing has certainly stood out: SGA's consistent concern for students who need to get home after the party scene on Thursdays. So what's going on with this abuse of privileges?

Just before she was elected president, Miller said she wanted to implement a volunteer program that would give students a ride home after parties. In the Aug. 29, 1996, issue of the Herald, Miller said she wanted to implement a program called Provide-A-Ride to prevent drunk driving. "It will provide a free ride home for students," she said.

In the Jan. 23, 1997, issue of the Herald, Provide-A-Ride was unveiled: party-goers were promised a safe way home if they didn't have a designated driver Thursday nights. According to the story, a Yellow Cab van would be making rounds through Bowling Green, picking up students who need ride homes from parties.

Now SGA is singing a different tune.

"The actual point of Provide-A-Ride is safety; no matter if you're out at a party or walking home late at night from a friend's house," Miller said in an interview yesterday. "It's just a safety thing. It's not a 'Hey, this is a free way to party' thing."

"Maybe (Provide-A-Ride) is going to end up being for students who are out on a Thursday night, partying with their friends," Miller said. "But hopefully it won't be. It'll be available for anybody who needs a reassurance that there's something out there that they can depend on."

What this means is because of SGA's contract with Yellow Cab, the organization can't say where students can — or can't — be taken. If underage students want to get a ride to a bar, they can just dial 782-3570. If hungry students want a free ride to a restaurant, their fingers can do the walking.

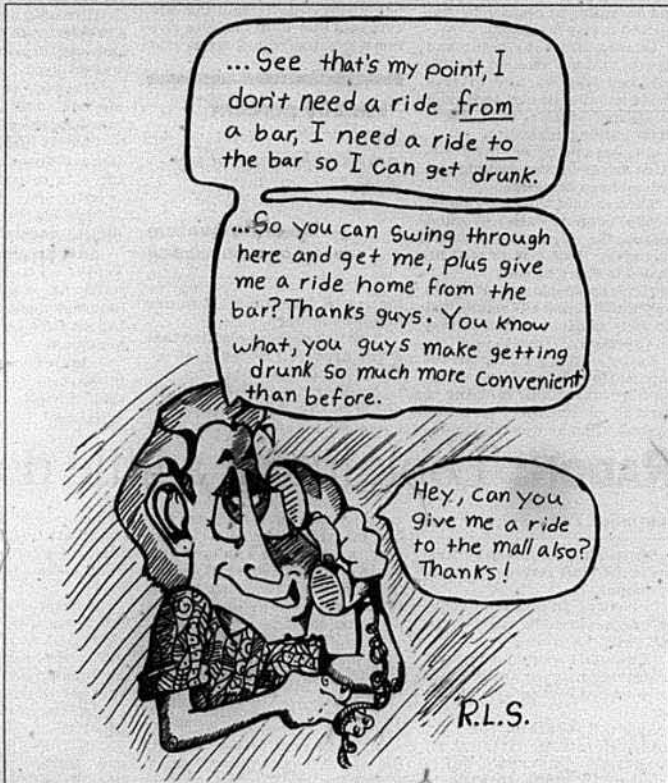
That's stupid. Provide-A-Ride shouldn't be used to take sober people to bars. Provide-A-Ride shouldn't be used to take students to a late dinner. Provide-A-Ride shouldn't be used to take someone to a liquor store.

If that sounds melodramatic, remember that under the current contract with Yellow Cab, it can happen.

"It is a paid service. We have no right to tell people where to go, and when it can and cannot come and get you," Miller said yesterday. "And if that means it's going to take you to the mall and you can hang out in the parking lot, then that's what it means."

But according to University Attorney Deborah Wilkins, the contract has a provision for modification. Restrictions on destinations — like bars and liquor stores — could be made.

As we stated in our editorial last month, we think the idea of



Provide-A-Ride is a jewel. It's only recently that we realized its flaw: people can't afford to abuse these privileges.

SGA should consider changing the contract. We think there should be at least some control of destinations.

Every base can't be covered, but every minute Yellow Cab's Provide-A-Ride van is taking students to a bar is another minute

other students will have to wait for their ride home.

Provide-A-Ride's mission — a way to get home safely from a party and a way to accept responsibility by admitting you're too drunk or stoned to drive — is a great idea. But SGA must reconsider its contract with Yellow Cab.

In the meantime, students must use the Provide-A-Ride line responsibly.

◆ Letter to the editor

Article implied all parties 'drunks'

Very disappointing is the kindest way to express reaction to Feb. 11's front page article (in the Herald). Yes, Provide-A-Ride is a wonderful idea. The Student Government Association should be applauded for implementing a service that local businesses have failed to make work.

It is a potential lifesaver and certainly could be expanded.

My gripe is that not all people who enjoy night life are drunks and not all night clubs are irresponsibly operated. A difficult task it is to keep underage party-goers out of establishments licensed to sell alcohol. Excellent fake IDs are easy to purchase or borrow, thus it takes experience and technique to decide the

validity of the many IDs we see every night.

Although the senior SGA president was the only person said to be shuttled to and from my business Thursday, Feb. 6, the article implied that downtown night spots are catering to minors. I can assure that Vic's is cautious about proof of identification, cutting guests off if they've had too much and assuring a safe ride

home to those who desire.

The assumptions and opinions of both the writer and the driver were not appreciated. Vic's (not ol' Vic's) has an experienced staff and we do our job well. If anything, the writer has thrown a negative into a positive SGA program.

Victor L. Portmann
Vic's Sports Bar/House of Blues, Inc.

People poll

◆ How are you preparing for tax season?



"I guess I'm getting my W2 forms together so I can send them to my mother. She'll be filing them at the last minute."

Adrian Laynos,
Pikeville junior



"I got all the forms in the mail, all the federal and state from the university. I don't plan on doing anything special with it, though."

Jeff Rudyk,
artist-in-residence from New York



"I'm not personally doing my taxes because my mother does them for me. She'll send them to me so I can mail them out."

Christa Gamblin,
Dawson Springs freshman



"Well, the thing is I'm a big Willie Nelson fan — I'm not even going to do my taxes at all."

Sam Watson,
Shelbyville senior



"I'm really not preparing for my taxes, to be truthful. My mom is doing mine. I'm just waiting for the big money to come in."

Dwight Holder,
Franklin sophomore

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◆ Opinions can be expressed in letters to the editor. Deadlines for letters to the editor are 4 p.m. Friday for Tuesday's paper and 4 p.m. Tuesday for Thursday's paper.

Forum

Civil rights journey is one whites need to make

I grew up in a family that wasn't overtly racist. My parents believed in civil rights. They preached about how all people were basically the same, how all people deserved respect.

But still, as a child, I never saw a black face inside our home. There were no black friends, no black neighbors.

I went to a Catholic grade school where only three of the nearly 250 students were black.

Though they were friendly, I never really talked to any of them. Granted, I was a shy, rather introverted kid who didn't talk to many people unless I had to. But that wasn't the only reason. They were black and I was white. It seemed awkward.

I vividly remember my first day of high school. There were black people all over the place. I remember feeling like I was in the minority. Of course, I was not.

I remember being ashamed that I even noticed. I wondered why it made a difference. Why should skin color have mattered to

me? I wasn't racist. I never thought whites were better. I never used the word "nigger."

But I didn't have to. I acted a little different around black people than I did around white people. It affected me and I knew that it shouldn't have. I wanted to change myself.

That year, I had the pleasure and benefit of knowing Arles Stobbs.

When I met him, the first thought that went through my head was that he was black. It was automatic. I didn't even have to think.

We sat next to each other and talked and I actually got to know him as a person and a friend.

But I still felt a little racist. When I saw someone I didn't know, I still saw the "black" first.

It wasn't until near the end of my junior year of high school that that changed. I was scanning strangers' faces while walking through a mall when I saw a man in his early 20s conversing with a group of people. Slowly, my eyes

assembled the happy-looking face of what seemed to be a pretty friendly-looking stranger.

I noticed he was black like I notice whether a person's hair is brown or if their eyes are blue — as a footnote, nothing more and nothing less.



Dan Hieb
Commentary

But it wasn't until this year that I realized I wasn't through. I had only taught myself that race didn't matter. But I really hadn't given much thought, beyond an occasional sound bite, that race continues to control some people's thinking and other people's lives.

A month ago I decided to put to

good use the day off which many people take for granted.

I hurriedly threw on my shoes and my jacket and briskly walked to the base of Pearce-Ford Tower on the night of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day for a candlelight commemoration.

Even with intentions to attend, had it not been for a phone call from a friend, the event would have slipped my mind.

We arrived about 20 minutes late, missing the progression to Downing University Center.

Mindful that we were late, my friends and I picked up the pace, arriving at DUC as a circle of fraternity brothers from Alpha Phi Alpha sang their fraternity's song. The floating melody and wisdom-laced lyrics seemed to pay tribute.

I went inside DUC Theatre which was filled with a couple hundred people honoring King. I listened as singers paid tribute by singing some of King's loved songs.

I listened as speakers spoke of the progress that had been made and all the work that still needed

to be done — retuning people's attitudes.

And for the first time, I understood a little what it meant to be black in America. For the first time, my eyes cracked open and I looked out and saw pain and triumph, the road that had been traveled and the road that lay ahead.

And I wondered if I had the strength to make it all the way down that road. Would we, black and white people, make it to the end of that road, the road that bleeds into the horizon farther than my eyes could reach?

Sitting and listening, I heard determination, pride and sadness. I heard the anger kept at bay by determination. And I knew that the end of that road would come.

God, give me the strength to be there when we have arrived.

Oh deep in my heart
I do believe

We'll walk hand in hand some day.

Editor's note: Dan Hieb is a junior print journalism major from Louisville.

University leaves students on side

Here's a story for you. Last semester, a group of guys innocently want to play a game of pick-up basketball — they choose up sides and start to play.

Then like thunder from the east, a Cro-Magnon-proportioned man in a really ugly necktie comes and yells at the guys to stop and asks them just what do they think they are doing.

"Just some overweight journalists trying to get some exercise," one of the boys says.

"Well, you can do it somewhere else, because only athletes are allowed in here," he says in a gruff voice. "You have been misinformed; no students play in here."

Even though the place was empty and no one was practicing, these regular students weren't allowed to play. Maybe it was because they weren't good enough to be on the court or maybe he thought that later they would stop and have a luau at mid-court.

They had committed the sin of sins, the nastiest of nasties, the mission that was impossible: they dared to play on the sacred court that is Diddle!

Even though these boys had spent enough money to buy a Cadillac while attending this university, they couldn't even play a simple game of pick-up basketball at the Diddle synagogue.

Then important Man goes down to some other fellows and asks them if they are athletes; of course they say yes, and he goes on his way. Now I don't know if they were or not, but if you were them and you wanted to play, you would say, "Uh, yeah, I'm a baseball player."

This whole scenario is not fair to those who pay the money to attend here, pay money to go to the games and then given the royal shaft because they are not athletes. I'm not holding this against any of the athletics programs ... well, actually I am.

Do you want to know why there are not any more athletes at this university? Because they are all out of shape from not being able to play. Hence, all programs should

encourage more people to use their facilities instead of have students pulling a Rip Van Winkle while waiting to play basketball at the Preston Health and Activities Center.

I was part of the aforementioned group, and even though I wanted to give important Man a big slap sandwich, I didn't. To me, it's just not worth the hassle of having to go through that situation again, so I'll just sit down at

Preston and wait. I would rather wait an eon than enter Diddle (Holy of Hollies) Arena ever again.

My biggest dream is to one day win the lottery and give a large generous

donation to the community college I attended before I came here. There you could go into the faculty lounge and have a cup of coffee with your professor or go by the president's office and say hello. It was like these folks were your friends. At Western, excluding a few professors, that is not the case.

But that is what is important — feeling wanted by Western, and most students don't. As soon as you get your tuition paid, someone says, "Get the hell out of the way so we can do whatever we want to with your money."

This cold shoulder by the university is giving me frostbite. And I'm sure the Student Government Association, the athletics department and everybody else who thinks this place is great will write a letter and say I'm wrong. But to those of you that have been stifled by professors, advisers or faculty, and those people that said, "I can't help you because ..." or "You can't do that because you're not important," this is for you.

Oh, one last thing. I hear some people are going to be sneaking into Diddle at midnight to play a pick-up game. They even have a World Wide Web proclaiming the event. It can be reached at <http://www.sneakybyimportantman.com>.

Editor's note: Ryan Craig is a senior public relations and history double major from Allegheny.



Stupid students, faculty; it's a sign

So, what's your sign?
No, not your astrological symbol — I mean, what does your sign say?

Let me explain: a comedic country music song by Bill Murphy and Travis Tritt talks about certain people who need to carry signs — namely, stupid people.

What is the advantage of carrying signs? They prevent others from asking stupid people questions. If you see the sign, you say, "Oops! Never mind."

After hearing that song, I thought there were a few people around Western and Bowling Green who need a sign. Here's a list I thought of with a little help from some friends:

◆ People who watch Ricki Lake and soap operas on the Garrett Center lobby television for any reason besides a good laugh.

◆ People who drive too fast and don't stop for crosswalks.

◆ People who think the crosswalk is an invisible yet protective wall against oncoming cars.

◆ Professors who have managed to get a Ph.D. in something like thermoneuclear physics but still haven't mastered the art of color coordinating their clothes.

◆ People (like me) who have driven the wrong way on one-way streets in Bowling Green more than once.

◆ Professors who take more than a week to grade exams or even lose them — but won't accept late papers.

◆ The planners of our sincerely beautiful E.A. Diddle Memorial Park, who just forgot to make it readily accessible to disabled people.

◆ People who throw trash on

◆ Western's towing service, Basham's, that won't accept anything but cash. (I don't know about everyone else, but I don't keep \$50 just lying around.)

◆ People who celebrate getting a D in a freshman-level class by saying, "And I didn't even study!"

◆ People who write commentaries calling other people stupid.

We all deserve a stupid sign every now and then, and that's OK. The good thing about stupid signs is if we learn from our mistakes we can get rid of them.

Even better, we can carry around other signs that hide our stupid ones. For instance, if we give up Ricki and soap operas, we can spend that time volunteering around town. Then our sign would say, "I'm caring and generous."

We can throw our trash away properly. Then our sign would say, "I'm respectful and appreciative of what I have."

We can keep our music at a normal level and build things so everyone can use them. Then we can proudly carry a sign that would say, "I'm considerate and thoughtful."

We all have stupid signs. Let's learn from them and use them for a new and better purpose — like beating up Ricki Lake.

Editor's note: Michelle Browning is a senior biochemistry major from Tompkinsville.



Michelle Browning
Commentary

the ground or tables and think it will magically pick itself up. (Or simply, people who take Western's building service attendants for granted.)

◆ People who play their music so loud that when you sit next to them at a stop light your car shakes.

◆ The bookstores when you try to sell back your books. Need I say more?

◆ Girls who fix their hair and makeup so they can go to the Preston Health and Activities Center and work out.

Heroes teach life lessons

As I sat in my room and thought about my life up until this point, I started to think about the black male who has had the biggest influence in my life.

Quite naturally one might think of his father without hesitating. My father has been everything to me, but sometimes my father could not give the things I needed.

I searched deeper, thinking about fraternity brothers who have influenced me. I dug even deeper by looking at professional athletes and stars whom I admire. I still could not choose one.

My search lasted two hours until I reflected upon the community that I grew up in. The black male who made the biggest impression on me was Charles Keller.

He was no one famous in other people's eyes, but he was the world to me. He was a terrific speaker and had an uncanny abil-

ity to know the situation that bothered me before I even told him.

I thought that was interesting because he had no kids of his own. He taught me traits that are

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

Charles Nichols

Commentary



very essential in life. Keller taught me about the Negro Leagues and other accomplish-

ments of such great black male athletes from Paul Robeson to Jim Brown.

He always stressed to me that I would have to work harder in this world because of my skin color to make my mark in this world.

I was in my third year of college when I received a call from my mother saying that "my hero and friend" died early that morning. I started to cry. I thought to myself, "Keller would not want me to waste precious time grieving over him." He would want me to continue to keep striving in this world.

He has been dead for four years, and I have yet to meet a black male who has touched my life like Charles Keller. A person does not have to be famous or on television to have an impact in your life.

Editor's note: Charles Nichols is a student working on his teacher's certification.

PATTON: CHE's mission unclear

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

wanted to start a new academic program they would have to convince a board that represents six universities, not one," he said.

According to Cox, this would ensure local interests "mesh well with what is good for the state."

Mercer emphasized that a regional board would not eliminate local university influence.

"I still think you should have local advisory boards that report to these other boards," he said.

Ramsey said Mercer's plan would increase cooperation between UK and U of L, who offer several competing programs.

"If anything, they may be competing with each other ... but maybe they should be working more closely together and cooperating," he said.

Cox said another issue the governor may take up is how the CHE can gain more legislative and gubernatorial support.

In the past, the council's mission has not been defined clearly, he said, noting that some legislators view CHE as a "referee" between universities while others have looked to the council for "statewide direction."

"There has to be some consensus as to what's expected of the council," he said.

President Thomas Meredith said he hopes a future CHE will not try to micro-manage state universities.

"The CHE should focus on statewide issues only," he said. "They should be in a position to hold us accountable."

Along with issues of governance, money woes will play an important role in any reform, said House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green.

"The percent of the state budget that goes to higher education has steadily declined over the past 30 years from 24 percent to 17 per-

cent of the state's budget," he said. "At the same time ... the number of students going into the system has increased significantly."

Patton has said \$100 million in additional funding would be included in any reform process.

In the end, Meredith said any reforms enacted or money spent would be to help students in

three ways: to increase efficiency, to create greater cooperation between universities and to increase the quality of education.

Mercer said the end result would depend on cooperation between political forces.

"Anything can happen, I think, if the governor and legislative leadership get behind it."

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Stalking:

What to do once a person's infatuation transforms into an obsession

Story by Stephanie Siria

Art by Ricardo Sloan

It starts with innocent phone calls at 3 a.m.

Then it turns into shadows behind a person who is walking home after a late night class. Harmless prank phone calls turn into threats and before she knows it, the person is being followed and harassed on a daily basis.

Stalking, by definition, is to walk in a sly or stealthy manner. At Western, it doesn't seem

to be a problem. Or, if it is, according to campus police Capt. Mike Wallace, it's not reported.

"We don't get many reports of stalking," Wallace said. "Maybe two to three times (a year) at the most."

According to Kentucky state law, stalking is "to engage in an intentional course of conduct directed at a specific person or persons which seriously alarms,

annoys, intimidates, or harasses the person or persons, and which serves no legitimate purpose."

"It's a matter of control," said Lynn Clark, a psychology professor and clinical psychologist.

Clark said most stalkers are loners who are propelled by sexual feelings. Usually the stalking begins after the breakup of a relationship, she said.

"The stalker, most of the time male rather than female, is obsessed with the person who broke up with them," Clark said. "Following them around is a way of keeping themselves attached to that person."

According to Wallace, there's not much that can be done to the stalker unless the person being stalked

makes a report.

"We can't take any action unless the person comes forward and files a formal complaint," Wallace said. "After they do that, we can investigate, take it to court and settle it through the legal system."

One student, a Louisville freshman who asked to be identified only as Gale, said stalking makes a person feel threatened with everything they do.

"The guy who was stalking me would come to my work and harass me, wanting to talk to me," she said. "I was scared to even go outside because I was afraid that he would be waiting outside the doors and would grab me."

Clark said the motivations for a person to stalk are different depending on the person, but there are some common characteristics.

"Most are immature and simply fixated on the person in a strange and dangerous way," Clark said. "They seek control and achieve it through devious tactics."

Wallace said people will put up with the harassment longer than necessary.

"Most women think they can handle the situation themselves and don't want to go through the trouble," he said. "If they aren't feeling threatened enough they'll keep quiet in order not to hurt the person's feelings."

That's how Gale's stalking started. "I went out with this guy and he seemed pretty nice," she said. "But after we dated for awhile, he became very possessive and was always wondering where I was and who I was with."

After they broke up, Gale said the boyfriend found new ways of getting into her life.

"He kept calling me at all hours of the night, and when that didn't work,



he started calling my friends," she said. "He asked them where I was, who I was with and if I was seeing anyone else yet."

Gale said that's what really scared her.

"The fact that he could get to my friends, my workplace and my home so easily frightened me a lot," she said.

The effects on a person being stalked are many, Clark said.

"The person lives in fear, always concerned," he said. "It becomes a major disruption in their life."

Clark remembers one student for whom the stalking didn't stop after she left Western.

"She began getting obscene telephone calls in her dorm room," he said. "Then the guy started following her around campus. Even after she graduated and lived here in Bowling Green and got married, he would still park outside her house and watch her."

According to Clark, if something isn't done, the stalking could get deadly.

"Look at O.J. Simpson," he said. "He terrorized his ex-wife and look what happened to her."

In Gale's case, the problem solved itself.

"I was to the point where I was ready to do something about it," she said. "But luckily, the guy moved away for a job."

Wallace suggests that anyone who thinks they are being stalked should make a formal complaint to police.

"Come in and tell us and we'll try to help anyway we can," Wallace said. Gale's advice to people, especially women, who think they're being stalked is to take some action.

"If you can't handle it yourself, tell your parents," she said. "Maybe they can help you out. If that doesn't work, get a restraining order."

She also suggests doing some self-protection if people feel the stalker is following them around.

"Have an escort walk you home and carry something like pepper spray with you at all times," she said.

"If you stop it ahead of time, you won't have to live in constant fear."

"The fact that he could get to my friends, my workplace and my home so easily frightened me a lot."

—Gale

Louisville freshman

◆ Movie review

Effects are only thing special about 'Dante's Peak'

◆ Pierce Brosnan and Linda Hamilton star

BY CHARLIE LANTER

"Dante's Peak" tells the exciting story of a man and a woman who put their lives on the line in an attempt to warn people of an oncoming disaster. Sound familiar? Maybe you saw it the first time when it was called "Twister."

Take everything that was good

about last year's hit, "Twister," add some phenomenal special effects, and you've got a suspenseful thriller severely lacking in story called "Dante's Peak."

Pierce Brosnan (who played James Bond in "Golden Eye") plays Harry Dalton, a volcanologist whose fiancée was killed during a volcano eruption in Colombia.

When Dalton is sent to the town of Dante's Peak to investigate some minor seismic activity, he discovers all the warning

signs of an eruption.

Dalton appeals to Mayor Rachel Wando, played by Linda Hamilton (from "Terminator") to put the town on alert.

Of course, as predictable as can be, Dalton's boss intervenes, claiming Dalton is overreacting and the town council decides not to alert its citizens.

Meanwhile, in a particularly boring subplot, Dalton remains in the town, spending time with Wando and her children and gradually falling for her.

The action resumes when,

after further research, Dalton's boss agrees that an eruption is in the near future.

A town meeting is called and panic sets in when pre-eruption activity begins with a series of powerful earthquakes during the meeting.

The citizens of Dante's Peak scramble to evacuate as buildings and bridges crumble and ash begins raining steadily on the town.

In what turns out to be a suspenseful yet unrealistic ending, Dalton and Wando head up the

mountain in an attempt to rescue her children and the children's grandmother.

Although suspense comes into play toward the end, a boring and predictable story — along with dry acting by Brosnan and Hamilton — make the special effects this movie's only highlight.

Digital Domain, the company that brought you "Apollo 13," is responsible for numerous spell-binding effects, from explosions

SEE PEAK, PAGE 8

Preacher hosting sex talk

BY STEPHEN LEGA

For anyone needing advice on relationships, the Rev. Thomas Weakley has something to say.

He will speak at 7 tonight in Downing University Center, Room 340 about God, sex and relationships. The talk is sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ.

"God really does have a plan for sex," said Weakley, the Campus Crusade minister. "God has given us an instruction manual for the relationships between husband and wife."

He said the Amazing Tones of Joy are scheduled to perform before the talk.

Angie Litchfield, a member of Campus Crusade, said Weakley's talks include practical applications for the listener.

"He adds a lot of his personal experience," the Bowling Green senior said. "He's very lively."

The talk is the second in a series relating to the Old Testament book, the Song of Solomon or Song of Songs.

For anyone who has had the same experience as Weakley, this should be a unique experience.

"I've never heard a pastor preach on the Song of Solomon," Weakley said.

Christian churches have been hesitant to address dating and sex, he said.

He said he plans to open the talk in reference to Song of Solomon, but added that he would also refer to the New Testament.

Litchfield said the talk is not exclusively for Campus Crusade members.

"In fact, we're trying to get as many people to come as possible."

PEAK: Plot, characters a twisted look alike

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

to streams of lava.

Obviously, the bulk of this movie's \$95 million budget was spent on effects and little attention was paid to casting or screenplay.

This disaster was directed by Roger Donaldson, whose previous action films include such flops as "The Getaway" and "Species."

Several elements make this movie too much like "Twister."

First of all, Dalton is obsessed with volcanoes after his fiancée is killed by one, much like Helen Hunt's character was after seeing her father killed by a tornado.

Second, the two main characters, Dalton and Wando, start out as two professionals working together, then slowly fall in love.

Finally, even the minor characters are similar in that Dalton's colleagues follow him around adding comic relief, much as Hunt's did in "Twister."

"Dante's Peak" is not completely horrible and would probably be worth renting at a video store in a couple months. However, lack of originality combined with poor casting and bland acting, makes it not worth paying the extra money to see it now. That is, unless you were anxiously awaiting the sequel to "Twister."

Trinidad steel drum band beats way to Hill

BY ROCHELLE DAVIS

Western will be hosting the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band at noon today in Downing University Center.

The five-member band is scheduled to arrive this morning from Trinidad. The steel band will have finished competing in the International Steel Drum Championships in Trinidad.

Bennie Beach, coordinator for student activities and organizations and adviser to the University Center Board, said the band has performed at Western several times before.

According to Beach, one of the group's members, Hugh Borde, played a role in develop-

ing the steel drum around World War II.

Bob Hansbrough, associate director of bands, said steel bands are best known for their use in Caribbean music.

Steel drums are hammered on different parts to get the pitch that the band needs, he said.

"The drums are hammered with different types of mallets, like a hard rubber hammer," Hansbrough said.

By striking different indentations, the players can get a multitude of pitches from a single drum.

"The deeper the sphere, the lower the pitch," he said. "The flatter the drum is angled, the higher the pitch."



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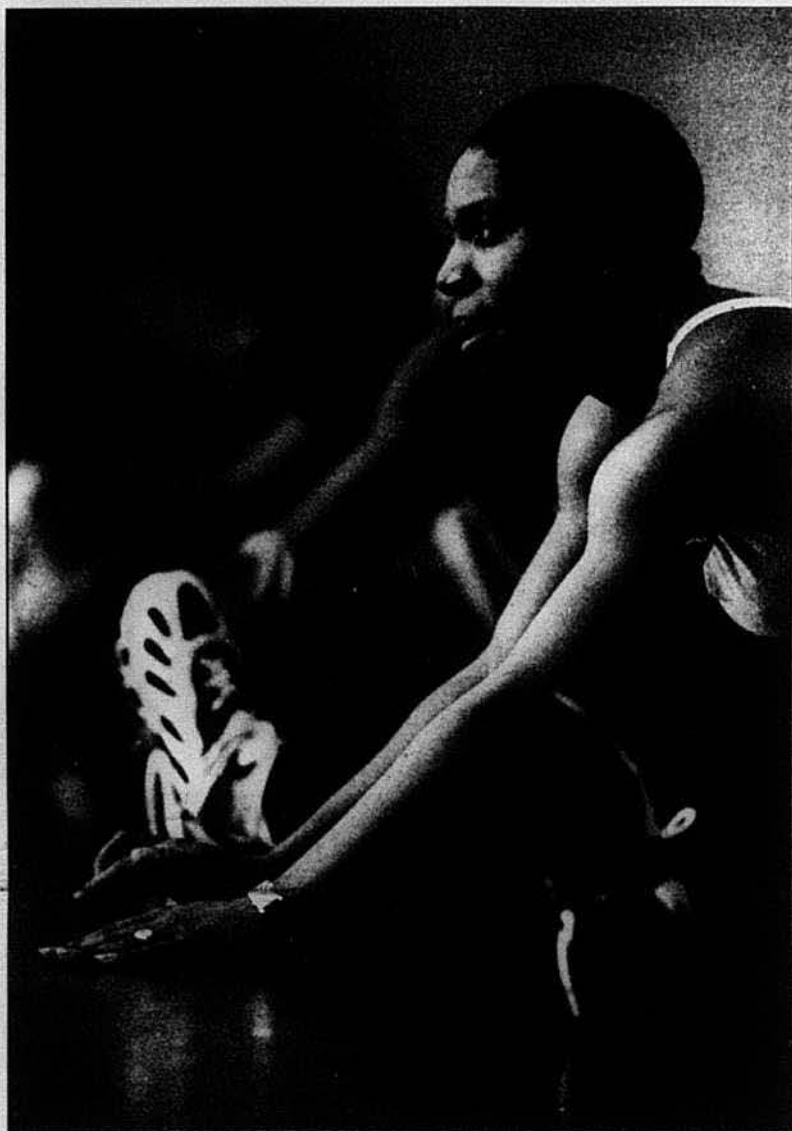
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Mike Sweeney/Herald

Before track practice yesterday afternoon, sophomore Jennifer Kimbrough stretches. The track teams will be running in the Sun Belt Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships this weekend.

Track teams going distance

BY TRAVIS MAYO

Distance runners will set the pace for Western's track teams this weekend.

The men's and women's teams will compete at the Sun Belt Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships on Sunday and Monday at Arkansas State's Convocation Center.

"We will have to maximize in our distance areas to come out with a respectable place," Coach Curtiss Long said.

On the men's side, junior Nick Aliwell is the leader of the pack. He is ranked fifth nationally in the 5,000 meters and first in the Sun Belt.

He is also second in the conference in the 3,000 meters.

"I just want to run the best I can because we have all been training hard," Aliwell said.

For the women's team, both freshman Valerie Lynch and senior Christina Brown are ranked in the top 10 in the Sun Belt in three events.

Lynch is first in the 3,000 meters, second in the 5,000 meters and third in the mile run.

Brown is first in the 5,000, second in the 3,000 and fourth in the mile.

Lynch isn't just thinking about herself as she prepares for the meet, however.

"It would be encouraging to see us do better as a team."

— Valerie Lynch
freshman runner

"I want to come out of conference with confidence for myself, but it would be encouraging to see us do better as a team and hopefully we'll move up in the rankings," she said. "Everybody's real psyched up for the conference."

On the men's side, Western has 10 athletes ranked in the top 10 in the Sun Belt in nine events. The women's team has four athletes ranked in four events.

Western's men were picked by the conference coaches to finish fourth at the championships.

The teams ahead of the Toppers are the favorite, Arkansas State, followed by Southwestern Louisiana and Louisiana Tech.

The women's team was also picked to finish fourth by the Sun Belt coaches. Arkansas-Little Rock was the coaches' pick to take the title.

Arkansas State and Southwestern Louisiana were also picked to finish ahead of the Hilltoppers.

Both of Western's teams finished sixth at last year's championships.

Freshman Evelyn Corona said she wants the teams to shine in Jonesboro, Ark.

"We have some really good runners and hopefully they will be able to run to their potential," she said.

Senior Charles Hopkins, who enters the championships ranked seventh in the conference in the 55-meter dash, shares Corona's thoughts.

"As a team, we have the talent to win if everybody comes and performs the way they are capable

SEE TRACK, PAGE 11

Tops want basic win over Butler

BY JERRY BREWER

Matt Idlett stepped into the batter's box and twisted his feet in the dirt beneath him as he awaited a pitch during Tuesday's baseball practice.

With head down and eyes fixated on a fastball, the sophomore center fielder ripped a line drive to left field.

That hit, one of many Idlett pounded during batting practice, was one more than the number of hits he had against Georgia Tech last weekend.

"What was 1.0 for 12?" Idlett asked.

No. 0-13.

"I don't remember going that long without getting a hit," said Idlett, who hit .339 with 10 home runs and 41 RBI last season. "It was really frustrating. I was up in situations where I had the chance to drive in some runs, but I couldn't get the big hit."

"I just need to get some confidence back by getting back to the basics."

But Idlett won't be alone. The entire team is trying to get back to basics against Butler in its home opener this weekend.

The Hilltoppers and Bulldogs are scheduled to play a double-header at noon Saturday. The two teams are scheduled to meet again at 1 p.m. Sunday.

"I'm more concerned with doing what we have to do to win ball games than what Butler has at this point," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "We're focusing on simple executions and

good, fundamental baseball."

Western (0-3) had a goal of not being swept in a series this season, but Georgia Tech (5-0) capitalized on the Hilltoppers' mistakes and ruined their ambitions.

Wild pitching

Western pitchers, hyped as the strength of the team this season, issued 25 walks and hit six Georgia Tech batters last weekend.

It gave the Yellow Jackets, who are ranked No. 5 by Baseball America, extra offensive ammunition to its already powerful lineup.

"I was disappointed in our staff's inability to compete," pitching coach Jerry Martinez said.

"There was a bit of fear in them and that's a difficult thing to address, but we're certainly going to change our work habits."

"And for some of the guys, their freshman year is over with. They have no excuses."

The Hilltoppers also made errors that sparked big scoring innings by the Yellow Jackets.

"A lot of our mistakes came from not doing the little things," Idlett said. "We don't have a lot of guys who can carry our team, and that means we must play consistent."

Murrie is quick to point out the team made the mistakes, not just certain individuals. He wants his team to take charge and not be timid against Butler.

SEE TOPS, PAGE 11

Western faces Jaguars

BY MIKE FINCH

Western may need a self-induced case of amnesia to finish the regular season on a winning note this weekend.

The Hilltoppers play South Alabama at 7:35 p.m. Saturday in Jaguar Arena in Mobile, Ala.

Western (12-13, 9-8 in the Sun Belt Conference) will try to forget last Saturday's 33-point drubbing by Louisiana Tech, the Hilltoppers' worst loss ever in Diddle Arena.

Western will have had seven days of rest going into the game, something Coach Matt Kilcullen said the team needs.

"We really were on fumes last Saturday," Kilcullen said. "That was our fourth game in seven

days. I give credit to the kids for giving what they had."

He added that the Hilltoppers need the break to get back on track mentally.

Brad Divine agreed. "We've needed the rest," the senior guard said. "We need to work hard to get ready for South Alabama."

The Jaguars, who have the second best record in the conference, are 18-5 overall and 12-3 in the Sun Belt.

The Hilltoppers lost the first meeting with the Jaguars, 68-66.

Senior forward-center Mark Neal, who averages 11.8 points per game, leads South Alabama.

Western sophomore guard Joe Harney may miss the game due to a cracked bone in his left wrist.

Thomas arrested for assault

BY MIKE FINCH

Former Hilltopper basketball player Jermel Thomas was arrested Tuesday on a charge of fourth degree assault.

Thomas, a junior from Michigan City, Ind., had a warrant out for his arrest after an incident at the Preston Health and Activities Center.

At 4:15 p.m. Feb. 12, Thomas and Taylorville junior Daniel Cox argued over a foul in a basketball game, according to the campus police report.

Thomas allegedly charged Cox and struck him in the face.

According to the report, the blow sent Cox to the floor where he hit his head and was knocked unconscious. Thomas fled the scene.

Cox suffered a broken tooth, a

toron nasal passage and swelling to the side of his face, the report stated. He was taken to The Medical Center at Bowling Green by ambulance.

Thomas was taken into custody at the Warren County Regional Jail on Tuesday. He was released the same day on a \$2,500 cash bond.

Thomas was originally charged with second degree assault, but charges were reduced because no weapon was used, campus police Capt. Mike Wallace said.

Thomas could not be reached for comment.

Matt Kilcullen said he spoke to Thomas.

"He told me he got into an argument," the men's basketball coach said. "I told him he needed to be a man and take care of things with campus police."

Lady Tops shoot for wins

BY KEVIN KELLY

Western coach Paul Sanderford refuses to label Sunday's upset win against the No. 4 Louisiana Tech a turning point for his team.

"It was definitely what the doctor ordered for our basketball team," he said. "It made going to practice a little bit easier because we needed a big win and we needed to play well."

A n d Sanderford won't allow his No. 25 Lady Toppers (17-7, 9-2 and tied for first in the Sun Belt Conference) to stay atop cloud nine with a two-game road trip beginning today against New Orleans at 7 p.m. at Lakefront Arena.

His players also realize the need to not look back. "Everything we did Sunday is out the window," freshman guard Jaime Walz said. "It doesn't mean anything unless we win these final three games and the Sun Belt."

The Privateers (12-10, 7-3), who lost to Western 100-77 on Jan. 26, hold a five-game winning streak and are a perfect 5-0 in conference home games this season.

Western serves to UT-Martin

BY GEORGE ROBINSON

Revenge could be the story this Saturday at Tennistown in Bowling Green when the Hilltoppers face Tennessee-Martin at 4 p.m.

Behind strong doubles play, the Pacers defeated the Hilltoppers twice last year.

"I hope we're able to take the doubles point from them this year," Western senior Andrew Kolesine said. "It'll be crucial for us to come out and play well."

Both teams have young squads. Western lists six freshmen on its roster, and UT-Martin lists five.

Western coach Jeff True looks to freshman Brad Herrera to help the Hilltoppers on the court. Herrera has a 5-2 singles record this season and is the No. 3 singles player on the team.

"He's one of our bright spots this year," True said. "Our top players are going to be tough and I'll be looking to get some support from our bottom half."

Although Tennistown is an

New Orleans' sterling play earlier this season at home has snapped Louisiana Tech's 25-game winning streak and Arkansas State's 12-game winning streak.

Sophomore forward Jenny Anderson, who averages 14.8 points per game, is one of four New Orleans starters averaging in double figures.

Senior center Sue Syljebeck scored a team-high 18 points against the Lady Toppers in Diddle Arena and averages 11.9 points and 7.7 rebounds per game this season.

"We're just starting to come together and we're doing a lot of little things well right now," New Orleans coach Joey Favaloro said.

The Privateers' forced 30 Western turnovers in the teams' first meeting.

Western's starting point guard, junior Laurie Townsend, may miss the New Orleans game.

Townsend, who is coming off a career-high 24 point performance, suffered a hip pointer during Sunday's game.

She was sidelined for most of Tuesday's practice and yesterday's shoot-around.

Sanderford isn't sure if Townsend will play today. If she can, he will start the same lineup he used against Louisiana Tech — Townsend, Walz, sophomore forward Shea Lunsford, junior forward Danielle McCulley and junior center Leslie Johnson.

Johnson leads the team in scoring, averaging 15.7 points

per game. McCulley averages 12.8 points and a team-high 8.7 rebounds per game.

The Lady Toppers hold an obvious height advantage on New Orleans. None of the Privateers' starters are taller than 6-0. Western has six players on its roster 6-1 or taller.

"It's just a very, very tough game for us no matter where we play them because of the matchups and their quality depth," Favaloro said. "They're the deepest and best team we've played all year."

Jaguars on deck

After the New Orleans game, Western travels to Mobile, Ala., for its final road game of the regular season against South Alabama at 3 p.m. Saturday.

The Jaguars (11-12, 5-6) lost to the Lady Toppers 82-48 earlier this season at Diddle Arena, but have won two-straight games.

Junior center Tamara Carter, who was named this week's Sun Belt Player of the Week, averages a team-leading 15.7 points and 9.7 rebounds per game.

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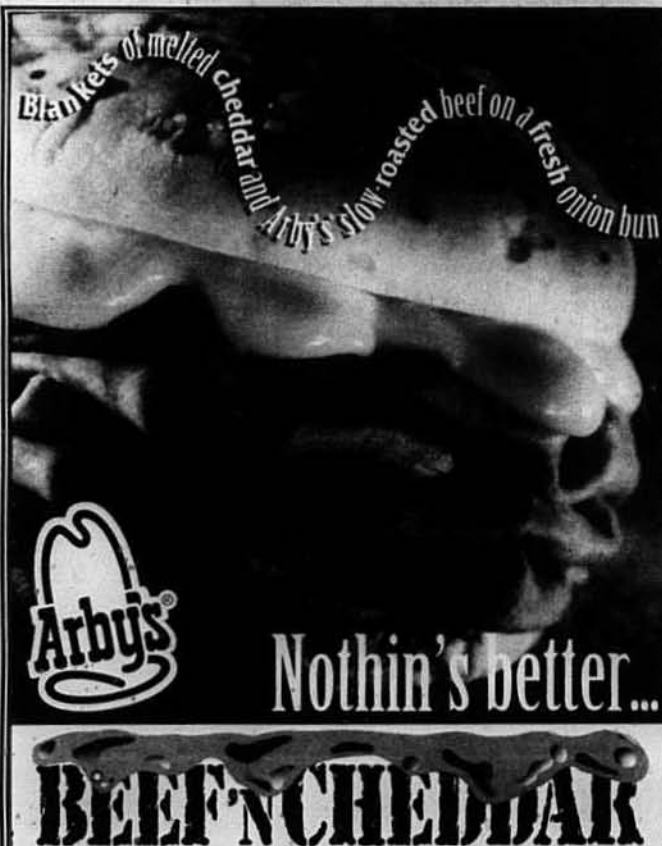
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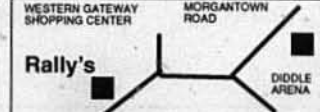
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